THE IDENTITY OF BUMELIA LACUUM SMALL[1]

OLGA LAKELA

The author's interest in the genus resulted from collecting and identifying representative floristic components in the white sand formation of central Florida. *Bumelia* was commonly encountered in the scrub association of *Persea humilis, Garberia heterophylla, Sabal Etonia, Quercus Chapmanii* and other scrub species with the overhead of *Pinus clausa* and *Ceratiola ericoides.*

B. lacuum was described by Dr. Small from the white sands of Highlands County.[2] In studies of North American species of Sapotaceae, Dr. A. Cronquist regarded the taxon conspecific with *B. tenax* (L.) Willd.,[3] described from South Carolina. It was discovered there by Dr. Alexander Garden who dispatched specimens to Linnaeus.

Despite limited knowledge of the genus, the author feels justified, as a result of her observations, placing on record certain characters of the two species. Pubescence has been found to be a reliable character in separating specific lines, (Wood & Channel).[4] Individual hairs have a central attachment, T-beam fashion. When the hairs are thinly acicular, straight and sericeous, the indumentum is appressed with a few diverging ends, as in the leaves of *B. tenax.* The dense, pannose indumentum of *B. lacuum,* mostly obscuring the lateral veins and the apical area of the midrib, at least when young, is due to long, sinuous implexed hairs with a tendency to curl. The overall pubescence in *B. lacuum* seems slightly coarser and less sericeous than that of *B. tenax.*

In contrast to the pubescence, the pedicel-length has been

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[2]SMALL, J. K. Man. S. E. Fl. 1034. 1933.

[3]CRONQUIST, A. Studies in the Sapotaceae III. Jour. Arnold Arb. **26:** 453-471. 1945.

[4]WOOD, C. E. and R. B. CHANNEL. The Genera of the Ebenales in the Southeastern United States. Jour. Arnold Arb. **41:** 1-10. 1960.

found to be highly variable and unreliable (Wood & Channel, *Op. Cit.*). In the given species the variations in the length of the pedicels are consistent in comparable stages of development. Seemingly short and thick, they are 2-5 mm. long

Bumelia lacuum Small. a. Surface of sand Plate 1288
Josephine Creek, Highlands County, Florida.

in *B. lacuum*, when the corolla begins to show between the spreading sepals. *(Lakela, 25096 & 25120)*. When mature, they are 8-9 mm. long with fruits 9-12 mm. in length. The pedicels of *B. tenax* are slenderly clavate, 8-11 mm. long. (*A. H. Curtiss, 5678* U. GA.). A part of this collection is a short twig in winter condition with two pedicels, 12 mm. long with calyces denuded of fruit. Mature fruit has not been available for study.

In flowers of the two species there is a difference in the texture of the corolla tube. In *B. lacuum* it is membranaceous, semi-opaque, obscuring the finer vascular traces. The median lobe in the fully expanded corolla is clawed; flanking the claw on each side, the crescentic margins of the lateral lobes affect a small opening. The margins of all the lobes are more or less denticulate and narrowly translucent. Thin texture and broad translucent margins of corolla lobes are characteristic of the flowers of *B. tenax*. The terminal lobe is sessile. In support of this observation made on a limited amount of material reference is made to Sargent, *Silva of North America*, Tab. CCXLVI, illustrating the *B. tenax* flower.[5]

Dr. Clark segregated *B. lacuum* from *B. tenax* on the basis of shrubby versus tree-like habit.[6] Suffice it to state that the shrub is stoloniferous. The photograph shows five young plants with stolons radiating from the underground base of the parent shrub. (*James D. Ray, Jr.* and *O. Lakela, 11054*, 25 June, 1962. White sand scrub, Josephine Cr., east of US 27, Highlands Co., Florida).

The colonial habit of *B. lacuum* was not observed in a plant of *B. tenax*, 2.5 m. high, in coastal sands of northern St. Lucie County. The large plant had a single stem and young plants beneath its crown were proved to have originated from seeds.

These observations seem to validate the specific status of *B. lacuum*.

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[5]SARGENT, C. S. Silva 5: 167. 1893.

[6]CLARK, ROBERT B. A Revision of the Genus *Bumelia* in the United States. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. **29**: 155-182. 1942.